

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 261155Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 708

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 00811

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PARM, AS, IN, UR, US, CE, XO, UN

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO INDIAN INITIATIVE ON DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 58869

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS GIVEN AMBASSADOR
ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TEXT OF GOA COMMENT ON INDIAN
CALL FOR UN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INDIAN OCEAN TO DISCUSS
DIEGO GARCIA (PARA NINE REFTEL). AUSTRALIAN HIGH
COMMISSIONER NOTED POSITION WAS BEING COMMUNICATED TO
OTHER GOVTS, INCLUDING SRI LANKA. FOLLOWING
IS TEXT:

BEGIN QUOTE: RE: INDIAN SUGGESTION FOR SPECIAL
MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN NEW YORK TO CONSIDER
DEVELOPMENTS ON DIEGO GARCIA, THAT IS, LATEST ANGLO-
AMERICAN AGREEMENT.

POINTS: THIS APPEARS "ONE-SIDED".

WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR INITIATIVE.

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IN OUR VIEW, LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES OF THE ILITTORAL

STATES FOR A ZONE OF PEACE IN THE AREA ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE MET BY THE SUPER-POWERS THEMSELVES REACHING AN UNDERSTANDING TO EXERCISE MUTUAL SELF-RESTRAINT.

WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN ENCOURAGING SUCH RESTRAINT.

TO THIS END, WE BELIEVE COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE ONE-SIDED, BUT SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE ADOPTING AN OBJECTIVE AND BALANCED APPROACH.

A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE HELD IN APRIL AS SCHEDULED.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT INTENTION IS TO DISCUSS AT THAT MEETING THE EXPERTS REPORT ON GREAT POWER PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA CALLED FOR IN LAST YEARS RESOLUTION 3080.

ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE LIKELY TO BE KEEN TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THIS REPORT BEFORE THE MEETING. END QUOTE.

VAN HOLLEN

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